



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MORE KC MEN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE TWO KILOS OF COCAINE, 400 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three co-defendants were sentenced in federal court today for their participation in a conspiracy to distribute two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana in the Kansas City area.

Michael A. Aviles, 45, **Henry M. Ruiz**, 38, and **Daniel F. Ramirez**, 29, all of Kansas City, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith today. **Aviles** was sentenced to 11 years and six months in federal prison without parole, **Ruiz** was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison without parole, and **Ramirez** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 1, 2004, **Aviles**, **Ruiz** and **Ramirez** were among eight co-defendants convicted by a federal jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana in the metropolitan area between Oct. 8 and Nov. 13, 2003.

Two other co-defendants also were sentenced in this case on March 9, 2005. **Joseph Gonzales**, 25, and **Carl A. Chatman**, 29, both of Kansas City, were sentenced to 15 and 12 years in federal prison without parole, respectively.

Co-defendants **Augustine. C. Aviles**, 40, **Kevin C. Darks**, 49, and **Robert Lopez**, 28, all of Kansas City, were also convicted by the federal jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana in the metropolitan area and await their sentencing hearings.

This case resulted from a reverse sting operation, Graves said, in which an undercover law enforcement officer delivered two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana to the defendants after they arranged for the purchase through a confidential informant.

The co-defendants waited at a warehouse until a truck, driven by an undercover law

enforcement officer, arrived to deliver the cocaine and marijuana. After the defendants unloaded the truck, they were arrested, Graves said. During the encounter, **Augustine Aviles** threatened to kill a law enforcement officer and **Chatman** was shot, Graves said.

Each of the co-defendants also was found guilty of possession with intent to distribute marijuana and illegally possessing one or more firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. **Augustine Aviles, Michael Aviles, Chatman, Ruiz, Darks** and **Gonzales** were also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Wolesky. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow